SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claims 4-6 and 10-11; and amends Claims 1 and 7. Support for Claim 1 is found in canceled Claim 4 and in the specification at least at page 15, lines 11-16 ("cold rolling"); and page 18, Table 1. Support for Claim 7 is also found in the specification at least at page 18, Table 1. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-3 and 7-9 will be pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 7-9 are withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a Restriction Requirement.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

The present invention relates to an Al-Mg-Si alloy sheet in which ridging marks are noticeably prevented from being produced particularly during press forming. Specification at page 1, lines 7-10.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,231,809 ("US-809"). Claims 1-6 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,334,916 ("US-916").

Any *prima facie* case of obviousness based on US-809 or US-916 is rebutted by the significant reduction in ridging that is achieved by the present invention in accordance with the invention of independent Claim 1 with an Al-Mg-Si alloy sheet "comprising Mg in an amount of 0.4 to 1.9 mass% and Si in an amount of 0.2 to 1.9 mass%", when

"([Cube] + [CR] + [RW] + [Goss] + [Brass] + [S] + [Cu] + [PP])/8 $\leq$ 1.0 (%)"

(i.e., the average standard deviation of the area ratio for eight orientations is $\leq$1.0%); and

when in the intermediate material used to produce the Al-Mg-Si sheet "the average value of the crystal sizes along the sheet thickness direction of textures of respective orientations is 50 μm or less". This is demonstrated in the specification at Tables 1, 4 and Fig. 2.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication in the Final Rejection that

> The examiner agrees that applicant has shown a synergistic effect occurs when a) a composition of 0.4-1.9% Mg and 0.2-1.9% Si (see Table 1), b) exhibits a crystal grain size of ≤ 50 μm AND c) standard deviation < 1%. Final Rejection at page 3, section 5, lines 2-5.

Because any *prima facie* case of obviousness based on US-809 or US-916 is rebutted, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Pursuant to MPEP § 821.04, after independent product Claim 1 is allowed, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder, examination and allowance of withdrawn method Claims 7-9, which include all of the limitations of product Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Corwin P. Umbach, Ph.D.
Registration No. 40,211